SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
BATMAN
12¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MAR.
NO. 146
"The DEADLY CURSE of KORABO!"
THAT GIANT HAND-- IT'S GRABBED UP BATMAN AND IS PULLING HIM INTO THE LAKE!
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BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
A NEW BAT-MITE ADVENTURE
HA, HA! IF BATMAN AND ROBIN ONLY KNEW THE REAL SECRET BEHIND THEIR MAGICAL POWERS!
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN SUDDENLY ACQUIRE STRANGE POWERS? HOW DOES IT AFFECT THEIR WAR ON CRIME? AND, EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, WHAT EVENTS FOLLOW WHEN A GROUP OF CROOKS ARE ALSO ENDOWED WITH...
BATMAN AND ROBIN'S MAGICAL POWERS

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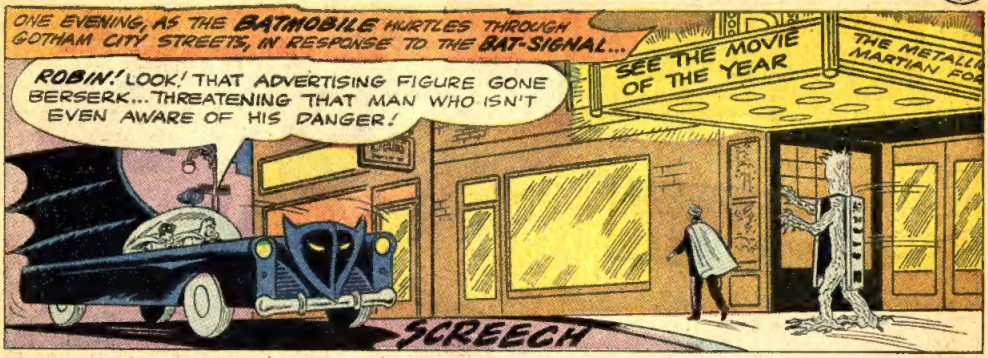
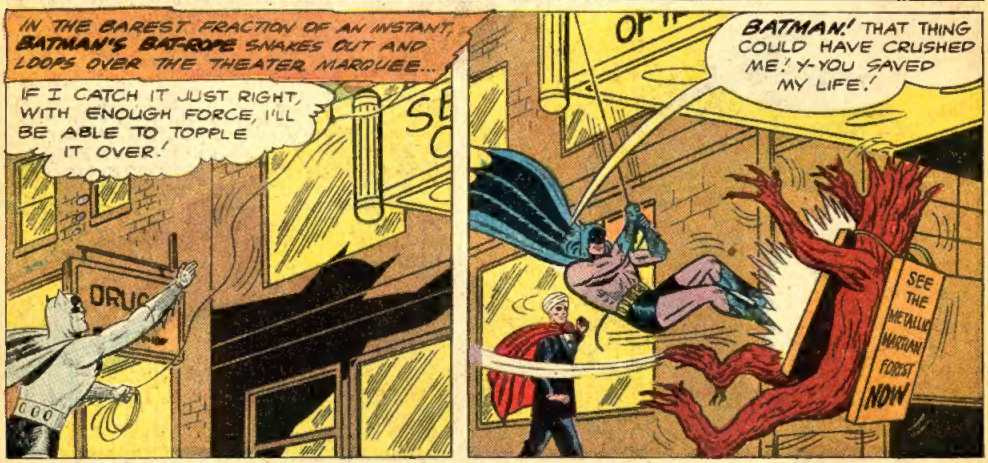
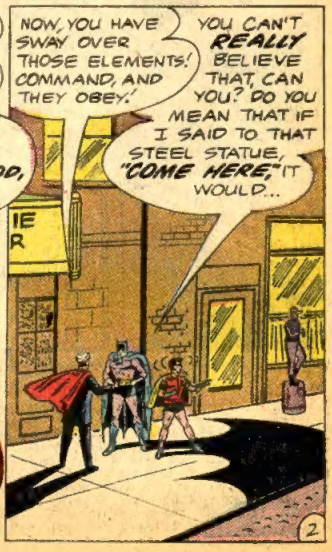

ONE EVENING, AS THE BATMOBILE HURTLES THROUGH GOTHAM CITY STREETS, IN RESPONSE TO THE BAT-SIGNAL...
ROBIN! LOOK! THAT ADVERTISING FIGURE GONE BERSERK... THREATENING THAT MAN WHO ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF HIS DANGER!
SEE THE MOVIE OF THE YEAR
SCREECH


IN THE BAREST FRACTION OF AN INSTANT, BATMAN'S BAT-ROPE SNAKES OUT AND LOOPS OVER THE THEATER MARQUEE...
IF I CATCH IT JUST RIGHT, WITH ENOUGH FORCE, I'LL BE ABLE TO TOPPLE IT OVER!
BATMAN! THAT THING COULD HAVE CRUSHED ME! Y-YOU SAVED MY LIFE!
SEE THE METALLIC MARTIAN FORCE NOW

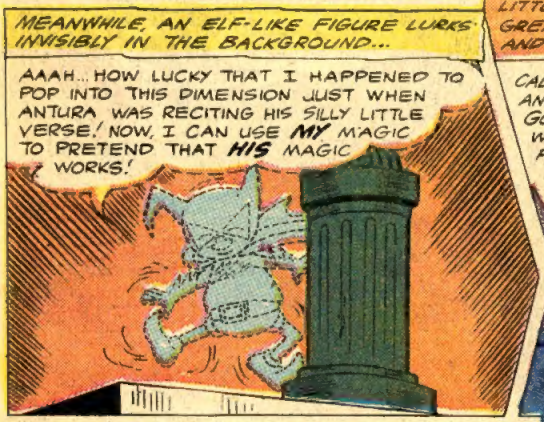
MAYBE I CAN REPAY YOU! I AM ANTURA... A STUDENT OF MAGIC! YEARS AGO, MY RESEARCHES REVEALED TO ME A STRANGE AND ANCIENT VERSE, SAID TO GIVE POWERS TO ANYONE TO WHOM IT WAS RECITED! I COULD NEVER FIND ANYONE WORTHY OF SUCH POWERS, BUT NOW...

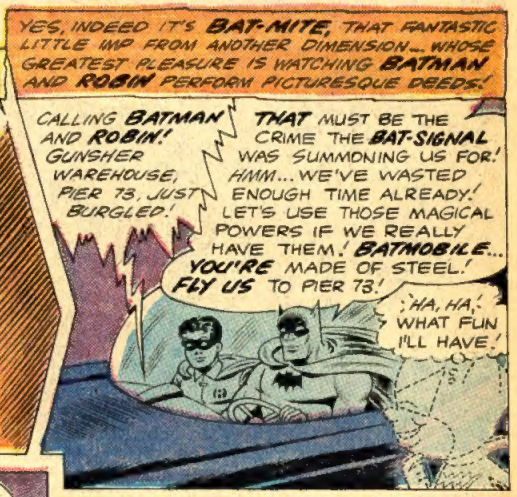
...I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU AND ROBIN WITH THEM, SO... IN THE NAME OF THE MYSTIC SECRET KINGS, I GIVE YOU POWER OVER MANY THINGS! OVER STEEL AND ROPE AND RUBBER AND WOOD, THIS MAGIC CHARM WILL WORK ITS GOOD!

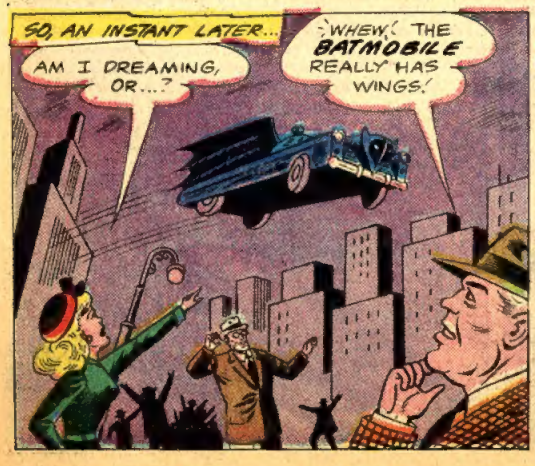

NOW, YOU HAVE SWAY OVER THOSE ELEMENTS! COMMAND, AND THEY OBEY!
YOU CAN'T REALLY BELIEVE THAT, CAN YOU? DO YOU MEAN THAT IF I SAID TO THAT STEEL STATUE, "COME HERE," IT WOULD...

BATMAN! L-LOOK! WH-WHAT...?
DON'T ASK ME, ROBIN.!
IT--IT WORKED! WONDERFUL! NOW, GO FORTH AND USE YOUR POWERS IN FIGHTING CRIME!

AND, AS THE DAZED ADVENTURERS RETURN TO THE BATMOBILE...
I'M ELLENDER OF THE GOTHAM CLARION, SIR! I HAPPENED TO OBSERVE THIS ASTOUNDING LITTLE SCENE, AND--
AH, YES...YOU WANT SOME DETAILS! I'LL BE GLAD TO FURNISH THEM! MAYBE WHEN THE UNDERWORLD LEARNS THAT BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE MAGICAL ABILITIES IN ADDITION TO THEIR OWN, IT WILL DETER THEM FROM ALL CRIME!

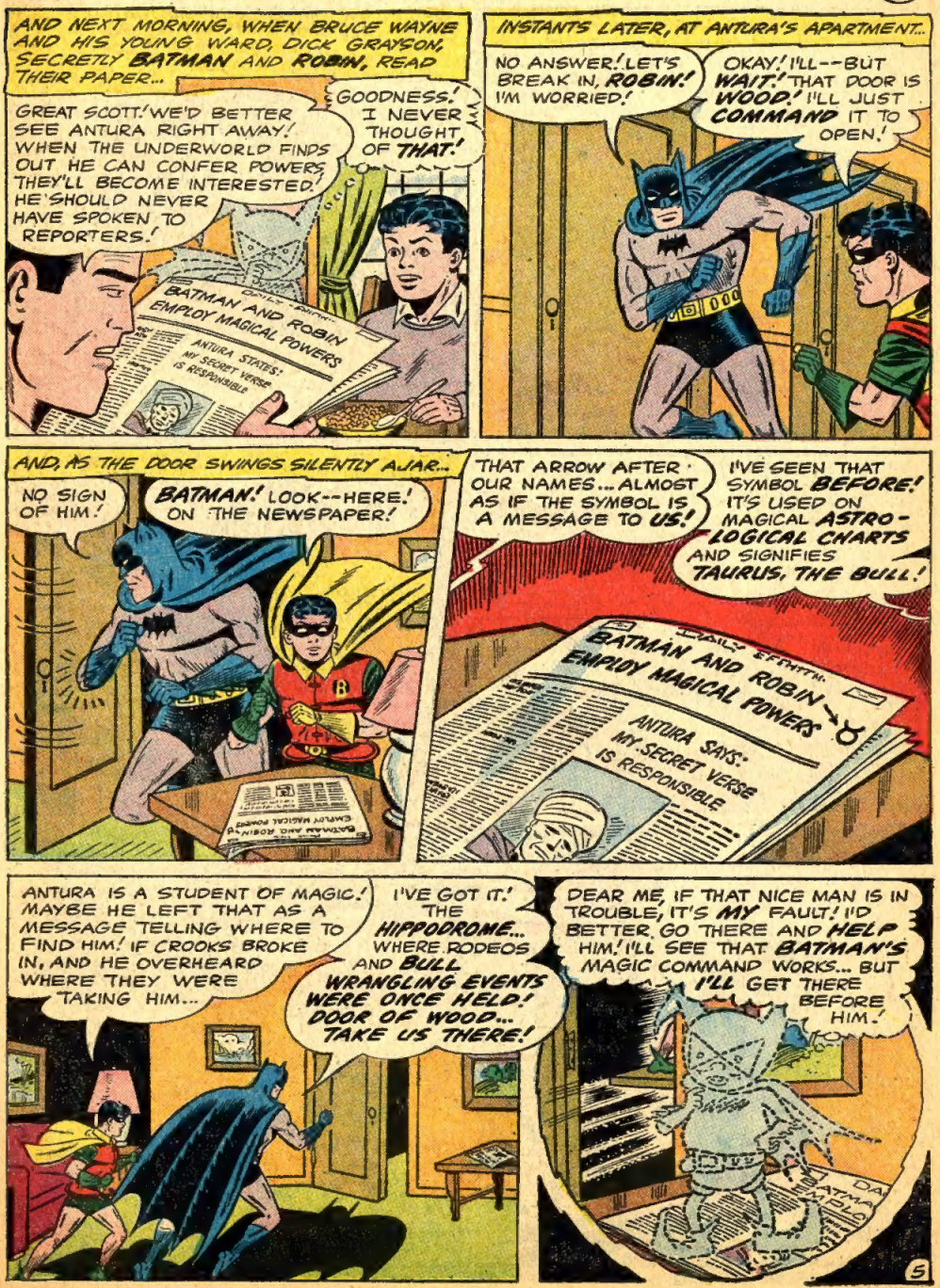

MEANWHILE, AN ELF-LIKE FIGURE LURKS INVISIBLY IN THE BACKGROUND...
AAAH...HOW LUCKY THAT I HAPPENED TO POP INTO THIS DIMENSION JUST WHEN ANTURA WAS RECITING HIS SILLY LITTLE VERSE! NOW, I CAN USE MY MAGIC TO PRETEND THAT HIS MAGIC WORKS!


YES, INDEED IT'S BAT-MITE, THAT FANTASTIC LITTLE IMP FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION...WHOSE GREATEST PLEASURE IS WATCHING BATMAN AND ROBIN PERFORM PICTURESQUE DEEDS!
CALLING BATMAN AND ROBIN! GUNSHER WAREHOUSE, PIER 73, JUST BURGLED!
THAT MUST BE THE CRIME THE BAT-SIGNAL WAS SUMMONING US FOR! HMM...WE'VE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ALREADY! LET'S USE THOSE MAGICAL POWERS IF WE REALLY HAVE THEM! BATMOBILE... YOU'RE MADE OF STEEL! FLY US TO PIER 73!
HA, HA! WHAT FUN I'LL HAVE!


SO, AN INSTANT LATER...
AM I DREAMING, OR...?
WHEW! THE BATMOBILE REALLY HAS WINGS!

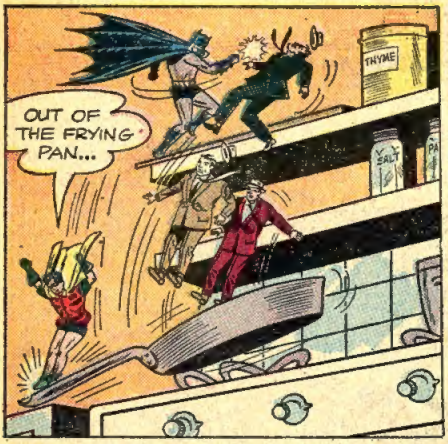
AND, SHORTLY, AT PIER 73...
THEY'RE MAKING THEIR GETAWAY IN THAT LAUNCH! BREAK OUT THE TWO SPARE TIRES, ROBIN!

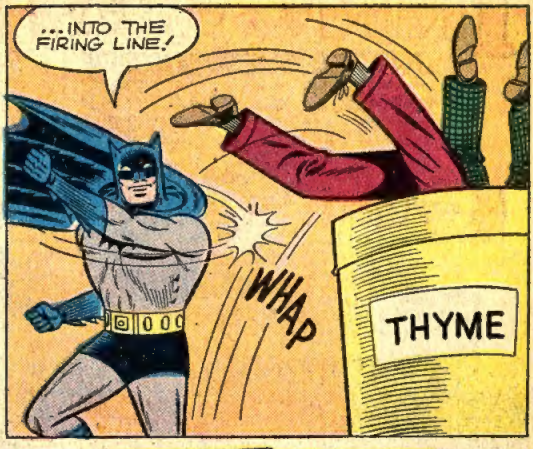
SECONDS AFTERWARD... A QUICK COMMAND, AND...
I'LL CUT 'EM OFF IN FRONT, AND YOU COME IN FROM THE REAR!
HEY-- BOSS-- LOOK!
AAAH--HOW DELIGHTFUL! BATMAN AND ROBIN IN SUCH EXCITING, COLORFUL EXPLOITS!
THEN...
TIME FOR YOU TO RETIRE!
WRAP AROUND THEM, ROPE!
WHAP!
IT SURE IS CONVENIENT HAVING MAGICAL POWERS... BUT IT'S FANTASTIC! I STILL CAN'T BE SURE I'M NOT DREAMING!
THEN, AS PRESS PHOTOGRAPHERS GAPE AND AIM THEIR LENSES...
WONDERFUL! JUST WONDERFUL!

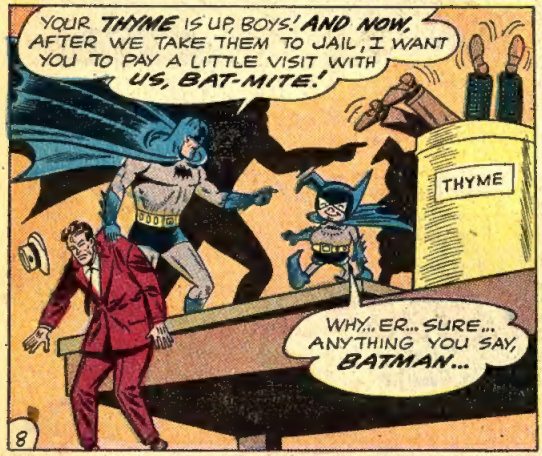

AND NEXT MORNING, WHEN BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, SECRETLY BATMAN AND ROBIN, READ THEIR PAPER...
GREAT SCOTT! WE'D BETTER SEE ANTURA RIGHT AWAY! WHEN THE UNDERWORLD FINDS OUT HE CAN CONFER POWERS, THEY'LL BECOME INTERESTED! HE SHOULD NEVER HAVE SPOKEN TO REPORTERS!
GOODNESS! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT!
DAILY EPITH.
BATMAN AND ROBIN EMPLOY MAGICAL POWERS
ANTURA STATES: MY SECRET VERSE IS RESPONSIBLE
INSTANTS LATER, AT ANTURA'S APARTMENT...
NO ANSWER! LET'S BREAK IN, ROBIN! I'M WORRIED!
OKAY! I'LL--BUT WAIT! THAT DOOR IS WOOD! I'LL JUST COMMAND IT TO OPEN!
AND, AS THE DOOR SWINGS SILENTLY AJAR...
NO SIGN OF HIM!
BATMAN! LOOK--HERE! ON THE NEWSPAPER!
THAT ARROW AFTER OUR NAMES... ALMOST AS IF THE SYMBOL IS A MESSAGE TO US!
I'VE SEEN THAT SYMBOL BEFORE! IT'S USED ON MAGICAL ASTROLOGICAL CHARTS AND SIGNIFIES TAURUS, THE BULL!
DAILY EPITH.
BATMAN AND ROBIN EMPLOY MAGICAL POWERS
ANTURA SAYS: MY SECRET VERSE IS RESPONSIBLE
ANTURA IS A STUDENT OF MAGIC! MAYBE HE LEFT THAT AS A MESSAGE TELLING WHERE TO FIND HIM! IF CROOKS BROKE IN, AND HE OVERHEARD WHERE THEY WERE TAKING HIM...
I'VE GOT IT! THE HIPPODROME... WHERE RODEOS AND BULL WRANGLING EVENTS WERE ONCE HELD! DOOR OF WOOD... TAKE US THERE!
DEAR ME, IF THAT NICE MAN IS IN TROUBLE, IT'S MY FAULT! I'D BETTER GO THERE AND HELP HIM! I'LL SEE THAT BATMAN'S MAGIC COMMAND WORKS... BUT I'LL GET THERE BEFORE HIM!
5

SHORTLY, IN A STORAGE ROOM OF THE GIANT HIPPODROME BUILDING...
YOU HEARD ME, ANTURA! SAY THAT POEM THAT WILL GIVE US THE POWERS!
NEVER! MY ENCHANTED VERSE WILL BE USED ONLY FOR GOOD!
HMM... WHAT AN IDEA I HAVE!... I'LL USE MY MAGIC TO WHISK ANTURA BACK TO HIS APARTMENT-- BUT BEFORE THAT...
THEN...
IN THE NAME OF THE MYSTIC SECRET KINGS, I GIVE YOU POWER OVER MANY THINGS! OVER STEEL AND ROPE AND RUBBER AND WOOD, THIS MAGIC CHARM WILL WORK ITS GOOD!
HUH? TH-THE WORDS SEEM TO BE COMING FROM ME, BUT I'M NOT SAYING A THING!
A MOMENT AFTERWARD, BAT-MITE'S MAGIC SENDS ANTURA SAFELY BACK HOME, AND..
HUH? ANTURA--GONE! BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE GAVE US THOSE MAGIC POWERS BEFORE VANISHING!
AND A GOOD THING, TOO! HERE COME BATMAN AND ROBIN!
AAAH, WHAT SPORT THIS WILL BE!
FOLLOW ME! IN THERE! AN EXHIBIT ROOM... WITH ALL KINDS OF THINGS WE CAN USE NOW THAT WE HAVE MAGIC POWERS!
EXHIBITS
A MOMENT AFTERWARD..
KITCHEN EXHIBITS
THAT'S RIGHT! RIGHT OVER HERE, FRYING PAN!
PEPPER
SALT
PAPRIKA
SAGE

SO, A MOMENT LATER...
WH-WHAT? ANTURA GAVE THEM POWERS? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! HE'D NEVER HAVE TIPPED US OFF TO WHERE HE WAS IF HE PLANNED TO DO THAT! I...I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
BUT, BEFORE BATMAN CAN GIVE IT FURTHER THOUGHT...
THIS SHOULD PEP THINGS UP...LONG ENOUGH FOR US TO MAKE A GETA-WAY!
ACH-OOO
AH-CHOO
AH-CHOO
HOWEVER, AT THAT INSTANT...
NOW I SEE, KOFF, KOFF, UNDERSTAND! ANTURA WOULDN'T GIVE THEM POWERS AND HE DIDN'T GIVE THEM TO US, EITHER! THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY WE COULD HAVE GOTTEN THEM! BAT-MITE! MAKE YOURSELF VISIBLE THIS INSTANT, YOU MISCHIEVOUS SCAMP!
SALT
AAAH--SO THERE YOU ARE! AREN'T YOU ASHAMED OF YOURSELF? NOW STOP INTERFERING AT ONCE!
I...I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, BATMAN! I'LL USE MY MAGIC TO RETURN THINGS AS THEY WERE!
SO, AS THE GIANT FRYING PAN RETURNS TO THE STOVE WITH ITS CRIMINAL CARGO...
NOW, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN! NO MORE "MAGIC" FOR YOU OR US! YOU'RE GOING...
SALT
PEPPER


OUT OF THE FRYING PAN...
THYME


...INTO THE FIRING LINE!
WHAP
THYME


YOUR THYME IS UP, BOYS! AND NOW, AFTER WE TAKE THEM TO JAIL, I WANT YOU TO PAY A LITTLE VISIT WITH US, BAT-MITE!
THYME
WHY... ER... SURE... ANYTHING YOU SAY, BATMAN...
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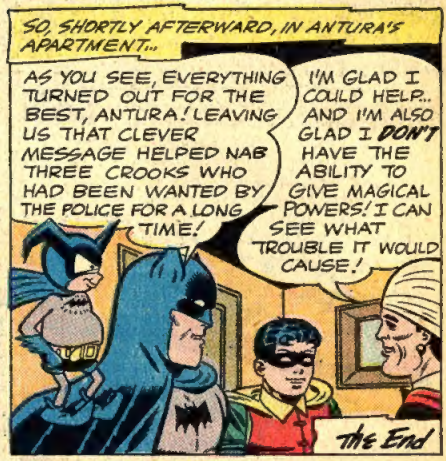
SO, SHORTLY AFTERWARD, IN ANTURA'S APARTMENT...
AS YOU SEE, EVERYTHING TURNED OUT FOR THE BEST, ANTURA! LEAVING US THAT CLEVER MESSAGE HELPED NAB THREE CROOKS WHO HAD BEEN WANTED BY THE POLICE FOR A LONG TIME!
I'M GLAD I COULD HELP... AND I'M ALSO GLAD I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO GIVE MAGICAL POWERS! I CAN SEE WHAT TROUBLE IT WOULD CAUSE!
THE END

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"INNOCENT!"

JUDGED THE COURT OF GREEN LANTERNS of THE UNIVERSE!

"GUILTY!"

PROTESTED GREEN LANTERN of EARTH!

WHAT WOULD *YOUR* VERDICT BE IF YOU SERVED AS A MEMBER OF THE JURY AT...

"The STRANGE TRIAL of GREEN LANTERN!"

DC
GREEN LANTERN
12¢
GREEN LANTERN OF EARTH, THIS HIGH COURT OF THE GREEN LANTERNS OF THE UNIVERSE FINDS YOU INNOCENT OF THE CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST YOU!
NO--NO! I'M GUILTY! YOU MUST STRIP ME OF MY SUPER-POWERS!
FEATURING The STRANGE TRIAL of GREEN LANTERN!

APPEARING IN THIS EXCITING ISSUE

DC
12¢
The FLASH
I TOLD YOU YOU'D BE IN FOR A SMOCK THE NEXT TIME WE CLASHED, FLASH!
FEATURING THE AMAZING RETURN OF GRODD, THE WICKED GORILLA GENIUS, in "REIGN OF THE SUPER-GORILLA"

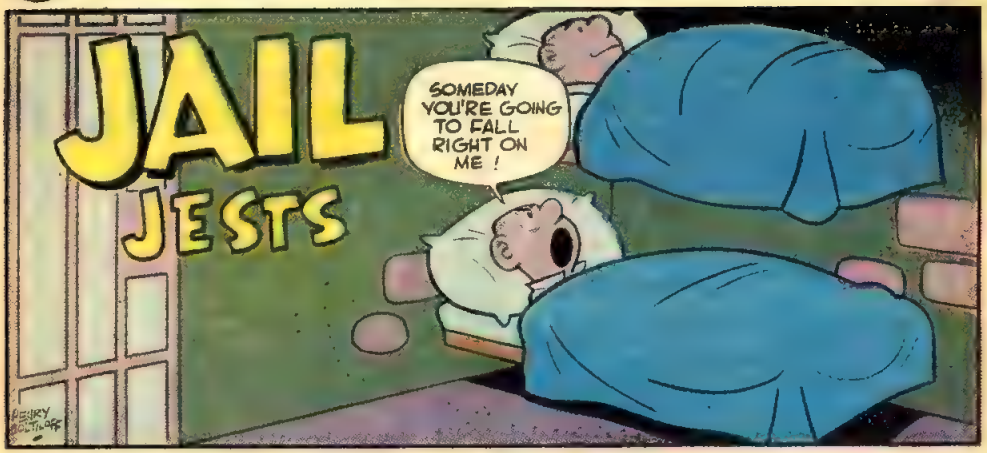
GRODD -- the SUPER-GORILLA -- is BACK!

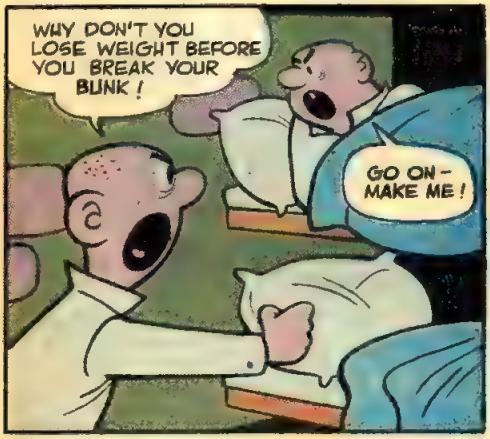
...BACK TO TAUNT HIS ENEMY The FLASH WITH THE GREATEST STUNT OF HIS CAREER... MAKING IT *IMPOSSIBLE* FOR THE *SCARLET SPEEDSTER* TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO FIGHT HIM!

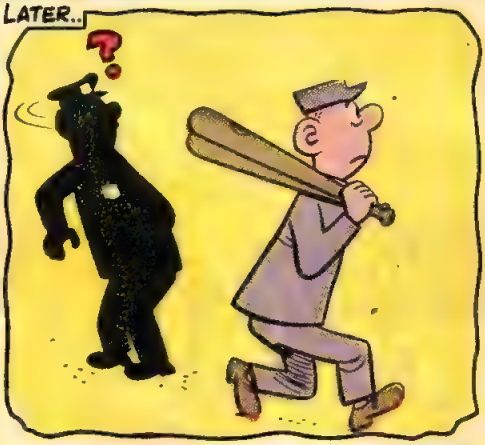
What a Predicament! What a Story! What an Issue!

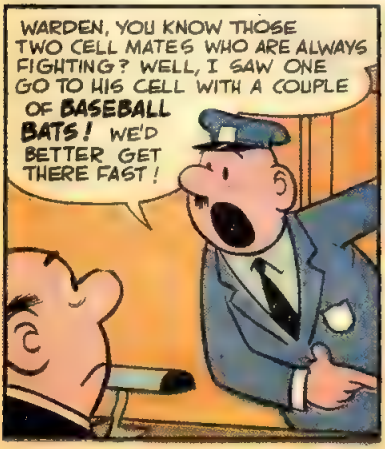
SUPERMAN • DC • NATIONAL COMICS

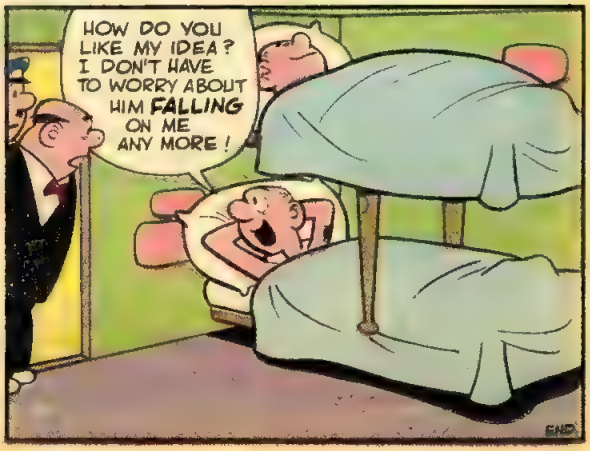
ON SALE EVERYWHERE!


JAIL
JESTS
SOMEDAY YOU'RE GOING TO FALL RIGHT ON ME !


WHY DON'T YOU LOSE WEIGHT BEFORE YOU BREAK YOUR BUNK !
GO ON — MAKE ME !

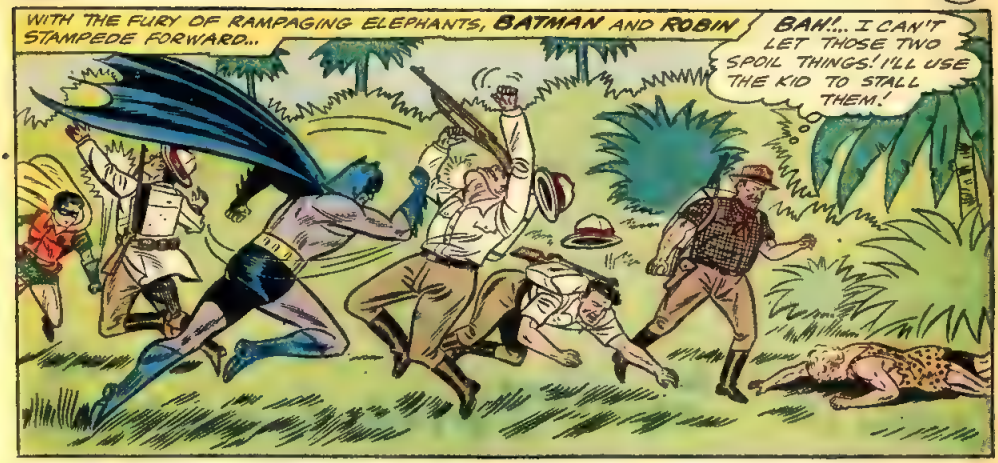

LATER..


WARDEN, YOU KNOW THOSE TWO CELL MATES WHO ARE ALWAYS FIGHTING? WELL, I SAW ONE GO TO HIS CELL WITH A COUPLE OF BASEBALL BATS! WE'D BETTER GET THERE FAST !

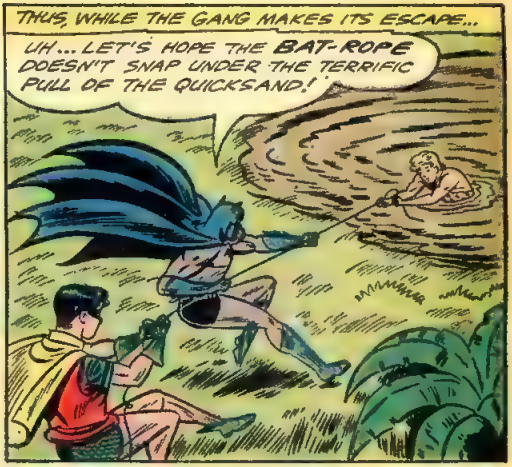

HOW DO YOU LIKE MY IDEA? I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM FALLING ON ME ANY MORE !
END

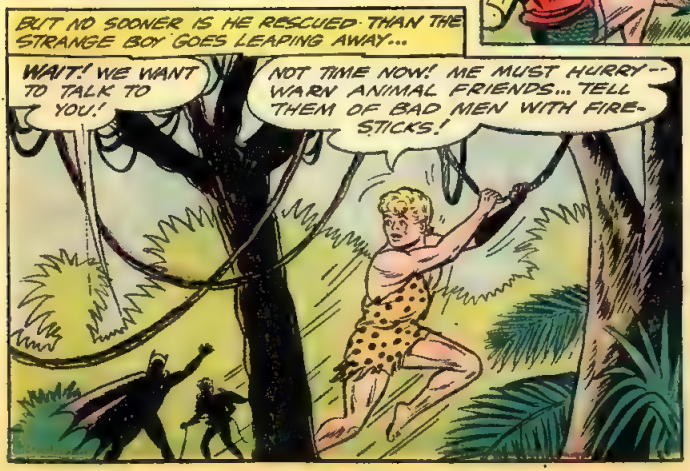
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
HIS "HOME" WAS AN ENTIRE JUNGLE... HIS ONLY "FRIENDS" WERE THE VAST ANIMAL KINGDOM! BUT HIS ENEMIES WERE HUMAN BEINGS, WHO HAD TRAVELED HALFWAY AROUND THE GLOBE, PURSUED BY BATMAN AND ROBIN, IN AN EFFORT TO UNCOVER...
the SECRET of the LEOPARD BOY
BOOM!
RUN, LEOPARD BOY! NOT EVEN YOUR ELEPHANT CAN WITHSTAND A CANNON ATTACK!
BOB KANE

SOMEWHERE OVER AFRICAN JUNGLE, THE BAT-PLANE REACHES THE END OF A MAN-HUNT...
THERE THEY ARE, BATMAN--SMILEY FENTON AND HIS GANG! OUR HUNT FOR THAT PUBLIC ENEMY IS OVER AT LAST!
BUT, AS THE CRIMINALS OPEN FIRE...
UH-OH... ONE OF THE BULLETS HIT THE ENGINE! I'LL HAVE TO MAKE A FORCED LANDING IN THE PLAIN BEYOND!
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
CRACK
SOON AFTER...
WHEW! WE'RE LUCKY TO BE WALKING AWAY FROM THAT IN ONE PIECE!
WE'VE GOT MORE WALKING AHEAD--IF WE HOPE TO PICK UP SMILEY'S TRAIL IN THAT JUNGLE!
AS THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTERS PUSH THROUGH THE STEAMING JUNGLE...
WHAT PUZZLES ME IS WHY SMILEY CAME ALL THE WAY HERE TO--LISTEN!... GUNFIRE! THEY'RE SOMEWHERE AHEAD! COME ON!
BANG!
THROUGH THE BRUSH, THEY SOON GAZE UPON A BIZARRE SIGHT...
GREAT SCOTT! THEY'RE FIGHTING A BOY!
A BOY WEARING A LEOPARD SKIN!
HE KNOCKED HIM OUT!
WHOEVER THAT BOY IS, HE NEEDS OUR HELP--AND RIGHT NOW!

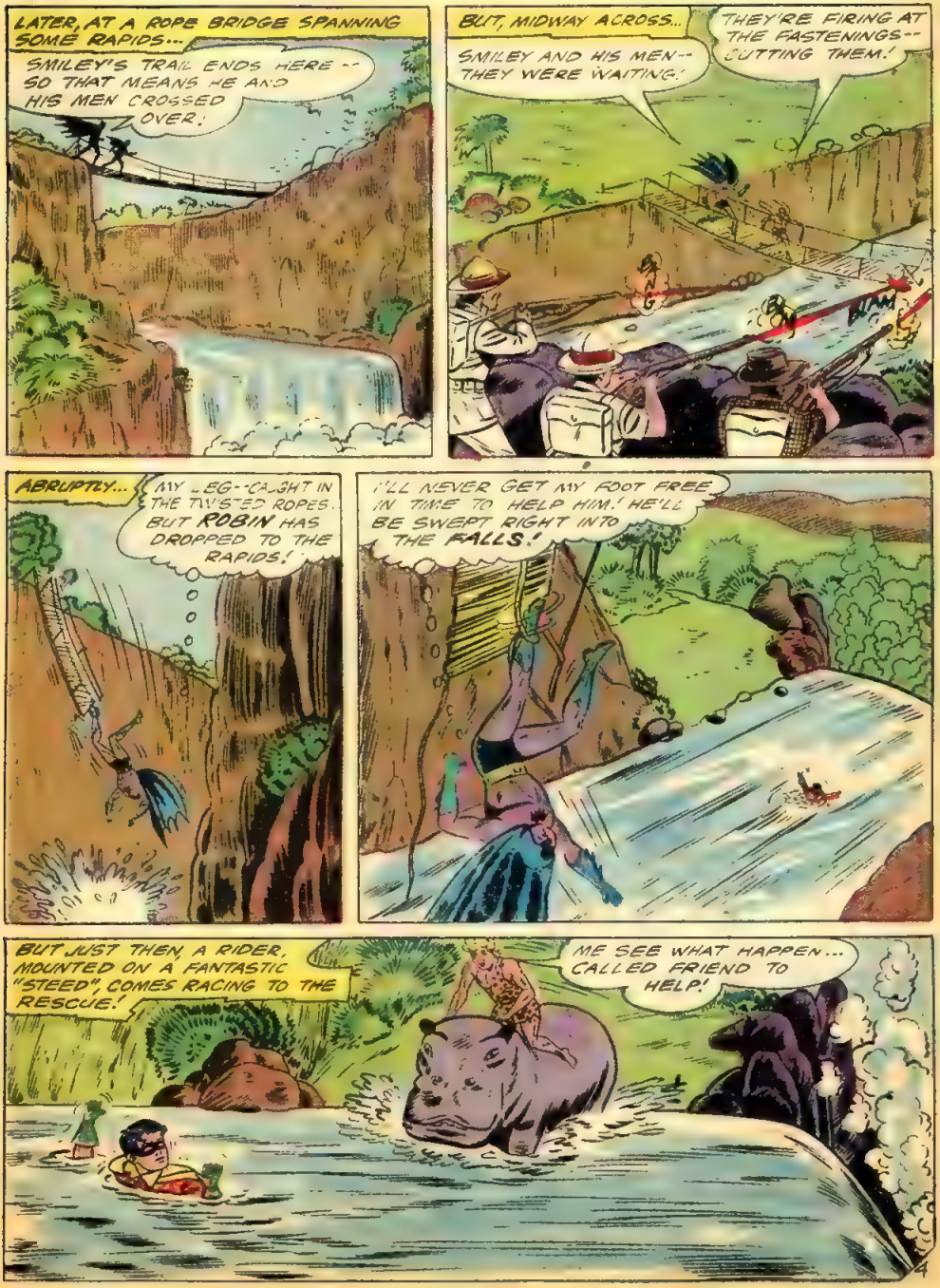

WITH THE FURY OF RAMPAGING ELEPHANTS, BATMAN AND ROBIN STAMPEDE FORWARD...
BAH!... I CAN'T LET THOSE TWO SPOIL THINGS! I'LL USE THE KID TO STALL THEM!

BATMAN, THIS IS A QUICKSAND POOL! IF YOU WANT TO SAVE THIS KID, YOU'D BETTER ACT FAST!

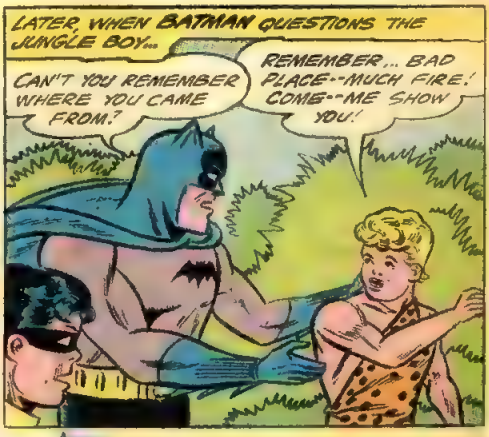

THUS, WHILE THE GANG MAKES ITS ESCAPE...
UH'... LET'S HOPE THE BAT-ROPE DOESN'T SNAP UNDER THE TERRIFIC PULL OF THE QUICKSAND!


BUT NO SOONER IS HE RESCUED THAN THE STRANGE BOY GOES LEAPING AWAY...
WAIT! WE WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
NOT TIME NOW! ME MUST HURRY -- WARN ANIMAL FRIENDS... TELL THEM OF BAD MEN WITH FIRE-STICKS!

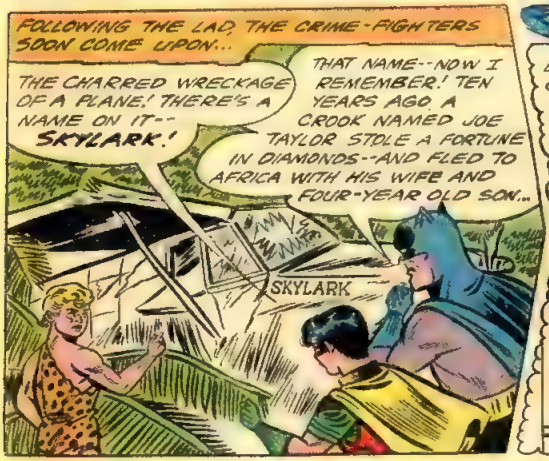
HE CAN COMMUNICATE WITH ANIMALS! HE'S GOING TO WARN THEM ABOUT SMILEY'S GANG AND THEIR RIFLES!
IT'S OBVIOUS THAT BOY GREW UP IN THE JUNGLE -- BUT WHO IS HE? AND WHY IS SMILEY INTERESTED IN HIM?

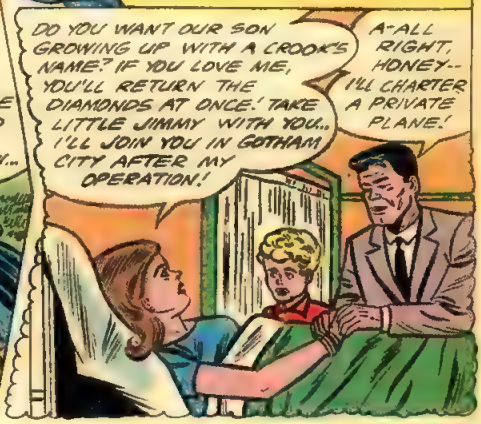

LATER, AT A ROPE BRIDGE SPANNING SOME RAPIDS...
SMILEY'S TRAIL ENDS HERE -- SO THAT MEANS HE AND HIS MEN CROSSED OVER!
BUT, MIDWAY ACROSS...
SMILEY AND HIS MEN -- THEY WERE WAITING!
THEY'RE FIRING AT THE FASTENINGS -- CUTTING THEM!
BLAM
ABRUPTLY...
MY LEG -- CAUGHT IN THE TWISTED ROPES. BUT ROBIN HAS DROPPED TO THE RAPIDS!
I'LL NEVER GET MY FOOT FREE IN TIME TO HELP HIM! HE'LL BE SWEPT RIGHT INTO THE FALLS!
BUT JUST THEN, A RIDER, MOUNTED ON A FANTASTIC "STEED", COMES RACING TO THE RESCUE!
ME SEE WHAT HAPPEN... CALLED FRIEND TO HELP!

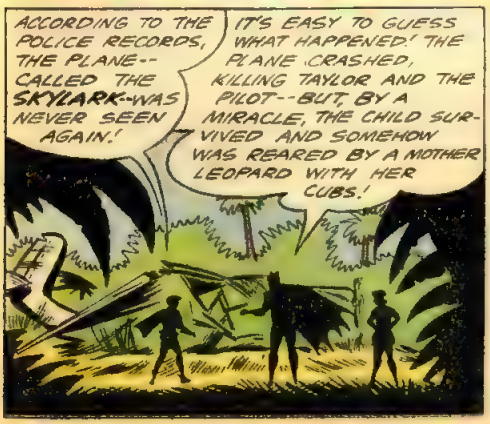
YOU HELP ME BEFORE -- NOW ME HELP YOU!

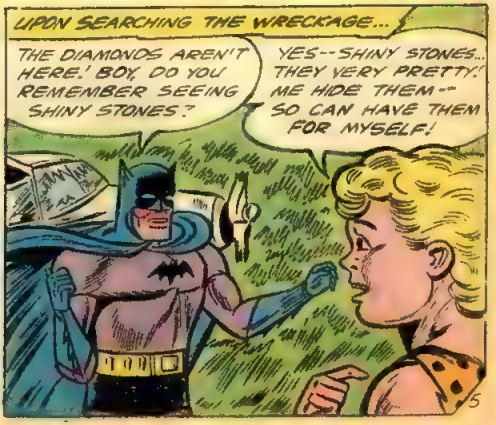

LATER, WHEN BATMAN QUESTIONS THE JUNGLE BOY...
CAN'T YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU CAME FROM?
REMEMBER... BAD PLACE--MUCH FIRE! COME--ME SHOW YOU!

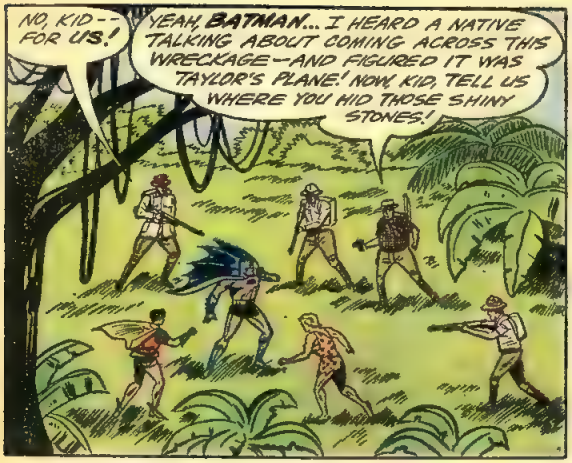
"HIS WIFE THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A BUSINESS TRIP--BUT WHEN SHE LEARNED THE TRUTH..."


FOLLOWING THE LAD, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS SOON COME UPON...
THE CHARRED WRECKAGE OF A PLANE! THERE'S A NAME ON IT-- SKYLARK!
THAT NAME--NOW I REMEMBER! TEN YEARS AGO A CROOK NAMED JOE TAYLOR STOLE A FORTUNE IN DIAMONDS--AND FLED TO AFRICA WITH HIS WIFE AND FOUR-YEAR OLD SON...
SKYLARK

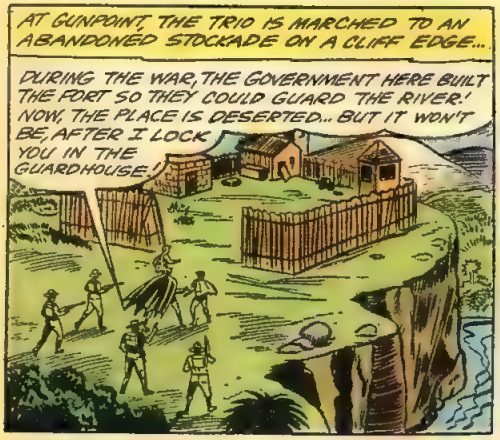

DO YOU WANT OUR SON GROWING UP WITH A CROOK'S NAME? IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU'LL RETURN THE DIAMONDS AT ONCE! TAKE LITTLE JIMMY WITH YOU.. I'LL JOIN YOU IN GOTHAM CITY AFTER MY OPERATION!
A-ALL RIGHT, HONEY-- I'LL CHARTER A PRIVATE PLANE!

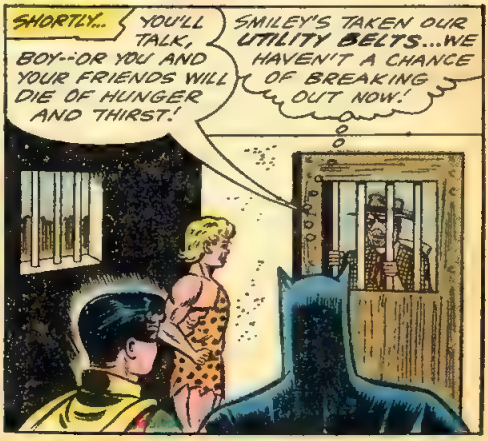

ACCORDING TO THE POLICE RECORDS, THE PLANE-- CALLED THE SKYLARK--WAS NEVER SEEN AGAIN!
IT'S EASY TO GUESS WHAT HAPPENED! THE PLANE CRASHED, KILLING TAYLOR AND THE PILOT--BUT, BY A MIRACLE, THE CHILD SURVIVED AND SOMEHOW WAS REARED BY A MOTHER LEOPARD WITH HER CUBS!


UPON SEARCHING THE WRECKAGE...
THE DIAMONDS AREN'T HERE! BOY, DO YOU REMEMBER SEEING SHINY STONES?
YES--SHINY STONES... THEY VERY PRETTY! ME HIDE THEM-- SO CAN HAVE THEM FOR MYSELF!

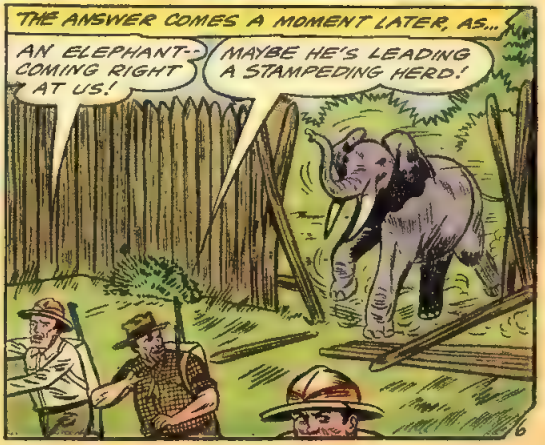

NO, KID--FOR US!
YEAH, BATMAN... I HEARD A NATIVE TALKING ABOUT COMING ACROSS THIS WRECKAGE--AND FIGURED IT WAS TAYLOR'S PLANE! NOW, KID, TELL US WHERE YOU HID THOSE SHINY STONES!

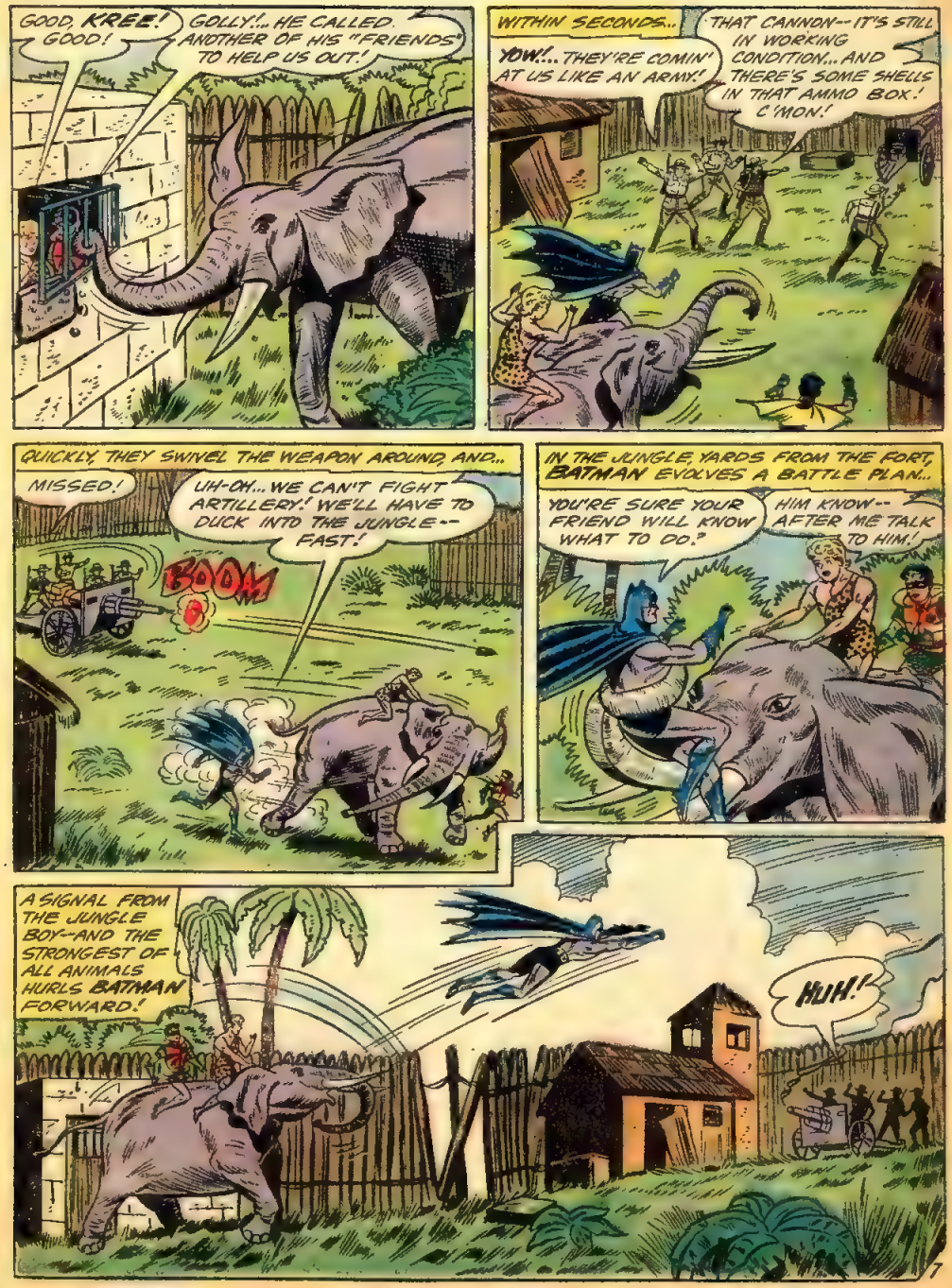
NO! YOU BAD MAN! ME NOT TELL!
YOU'LL TALK--AFTER AWHILE! C'MON, BOYS--LET'S TAKE 'EM TO THE OLD FORT!

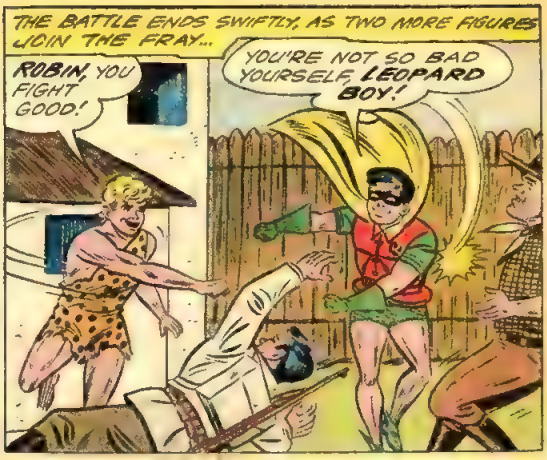

AT GUNPOINT, THE TRIO IS MARCHED TO AN ABANDONED STOCKADE ON A CLIFF EDGE...
DURING THE WAR, THE GOVERNMENT HERE BUILT THE FORT SO THEY COULD GUARD THE RIVER! NOW, THE PLACE IS DESERTED... BUT IT WON'T BE, AFTER I LOCK YOU IN THE GUARDHOUSE!

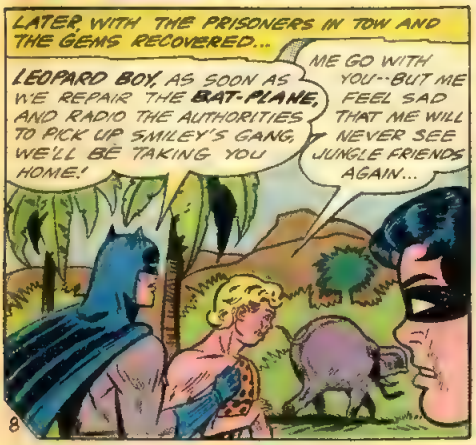

SHORTLY...
YOU'LL TALK, BOY--OR YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL DIE OF HUNGER AND THIRST!
SMILEY'S TAKEN OUR UTILITY BELTS...WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE OF BREAKING OUT NOW!

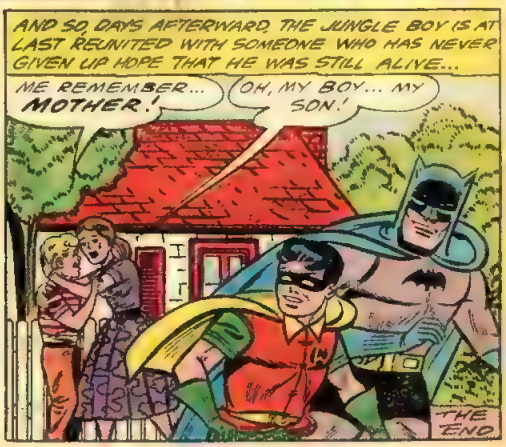
BUT, AS SOON AS THEY ARE ALONE...
KRE-EEE! KRE-EEE!
WHAT'S HE UP TO? WHAT'S HE SHOUTING?


THE ANSWER COMES A MOMENT LATER, AS...
AN ELEPHANT--COMING RIGHT AT US!
MAYBE HE'S LEADING A STAMPEDING HERD!


GOOD, KREE! GOOD!
GOLLY!... HE CALLED ANOTHER OF HIS "FRIENDS" TO HELP US OUT!
WITHIN SECONDS..
YOW!... THEY'RE COMIN' AT US LIKE AN ARMY!
THAT CANNON-- IT'S STILL IN WORKING CONDITION... AND THERE'S SOME SHELLS IN THAT AMMO BOX! C'MON!
QUICKLY, THEY SWIVEL THE WEAPON AROUND, AND..
MISSED!
UH-OH... WE CAN'T FIGHT ARTILLERY! WE'LL HAVE TO DUCK INTO THE JUNGLE-- FAST!
BOOM
IN THE JUNGLE, YARDS FROM THE FORT, BATMAN EVOLVES A BATTLE PLAN..
YOU'RE SURE YOUR FRIEND WILL KNOW WHAT TO DO."
HIM KNOW-- AFTER ME TALK TO HIM!
A SIGNAL FROM THE JUNGLE BOY-AND THE STRONGEST OF ALL ANIMALS HURLS BATMAN FORWARD!
HUH!




LATER, WITH THE PRISONERS IN TOW AND THE GEMS RECOVERED...
LEOPARD BOY, AS SOON AS WE REPAIR THE BAT-PLANE, AND RADIO THE AUTHORITIES TO PICK UP SMILEY'S GANG, WE'LL BE TAKING YOU HOME!
ME GO WITH YOU--BUT ME FEEL SAD THAT ME WILL NEVER SEE JUNGLE FRIENDS AGAIN...


AND SO, DAYS AFTERWARD, THE JUNGLE BOY IS AT LAST REUNITED WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS NEVER GIVEN UP HOPE THAT HE WAS STILL ALIVE...
ME REMEMBER... MOTHER!
OH, MY BOY... MY SON!
THE END

NOW in a MAGAZINE OF HIS OWN!
AQUAMAN
THE KING OF THE SEVEN SEAS AND HIS YOUNG ALLY, AQUALAD
IN A THRILLING 3-PART NOVEL... "THE SECRET OF CAPTAIN SYKES' DEADLY MISSIONS!"
ON SALE EVERYWHERE JAN. 25th

FINGERPRINT Curios!

FINGERPRINT KNOWLEDGE PROBABLY GOES AS FAR BACK AS *ANCIENT BABYLON!* DISCOVERIES SHOW THAT MERCHANTS THEN IMPRESSED THEIR FINGERS IN SOFT CLAY TABLETS TO RECORD *BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS!*

CENTURIES LATER, QUINTILIAN, A ROMAN LAWYER, (1ST CENTURY A.D.) DEFENDED A BLIND CLIENT ACCUSED OF MURDER, BY TRYING TO PROVE THAT THE *PALM PRINTS* ON THE WALLS AT THE SCENE OF THE CRIME WERE THOSE OF A NEIGHBOR!

A DOCUMENT FOUND IN TURKESTAN BY SIR AUREL STEIN, THE EXPLORER, RECORDED A LOAN WHICH WAS *SIGNED AND SEALED* BY THE *FINGERPRINTS* OF THE PARTIES INVOLVED, IN 782 A.D.!

IN THE CYCLOPAEDIC HISTORY WRITTEN BY DOCTOR RASHID OF THE PERSIAN EMPIRE (1247-1318), HE STATED, "EXPERIENCE SHOWS THAT NO TWO INDIVIDUALS HAVE FINGERS PRECISELY ALIKE!"

IN 14TH CENTURY PERSIA, AMBASSADORS AND MERCHANTS ARRIVING IN THE COUNTRY WERE *FINGERPRINTED FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES!*

Dear Editor: I have in front of me an old copy of BATMAN COMICS. In one of the stories, there is a scene in the BAT-CAVE CRIME LAB, and in the background I see an object that resembles an ultra-violet lamp. Of what use is this to BATMAN?

Milton West, South Bend, Ind.

(Ultra-violet light is able to show up many substances that are invisible to the naked eye under ordinary light. Most chemicals, if there's the slightest trace of them on any surface, glow specific colors under the ultra-violet beam. You can see the value this would have to BATMAN in examining scraps of evidence from the scene of a crime, or in pinpointing a suspect. For example, a man committing a crime in a gas station would be likely to pick up some oil on the soles of his shoes. Though absorbed and concealed by the dirt on his soles, the oil would easily show up under ultra-violet light.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I figured out a weak spot in the BAT-CAVE. There's a lot of complicated electronic equipment down there, plus plain old electric lights all over the place. With all the current this must require, the electric company would be quick to conclude that there's more to the Wayne Mansion than meets the eye. How would Bruce talk his way out of that one?

Archie McCann, Billings, Mont.

(He wouldn't have to. The BAT-CAVE has its own generator—battery operated, of course—and draws none of its current from the electric company.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I can't get enough of those stories in which BATMAN'S body undergoes some incredible change. I hope you'll be doing another one soon.

Ernestine Lee, San Antonio, Tex.

(You're not the only reader who has requested these stories. That's why we've got *two* in the works right now. In the MARCH issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 301, you'll see the caped crime-fighter turn into a deadly menace to himself and to everyone around him, as he becomes "THE CONDEMNED BATMAN!" Equally startling is the adventure in the next issue of BATMAN COMICS, MAY, No. 147, where "BATMAN BECOMES BAT-BABY!"—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: If BATMAN were to find samples of blonde hair at the scene of a crime, I'm sure it would help him to know whether that hair was natural or bleached blonde. Is there any way of determining for sure?

Moe Husik, Detroit, Mich.

(Definitely—because bleached hair is always frayed and irregular on the surface. The first thing BATMAN would do with a blonde hair sample is stain it with a dye in the BAT-CAVE CRIME LAB, then inspect it under the microscope. On a smooth-surfaced *natural* blonde strand, the dye would spread evenly and smoothly, but on the "choppy" surface of a *bleached* strand, there would be an uneven, irregular spreading.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: You've shown BATMAN and ROBIN, from time to time, "listening in" on crooks' secret conversations by reading their lips. Yet, on other occasions when this talent would come in handy, you don't *show the crime-fighters using it. How come?*

Sol Adler, Brooklyn, N. Y.

(A person's lips can only be read when the lip reader is facing him *head-on*. It is impossible, even for expert lip readers like BATMAN and ROBIN, to make out the words from a profile view of the crooks.—Ed.)

* * *

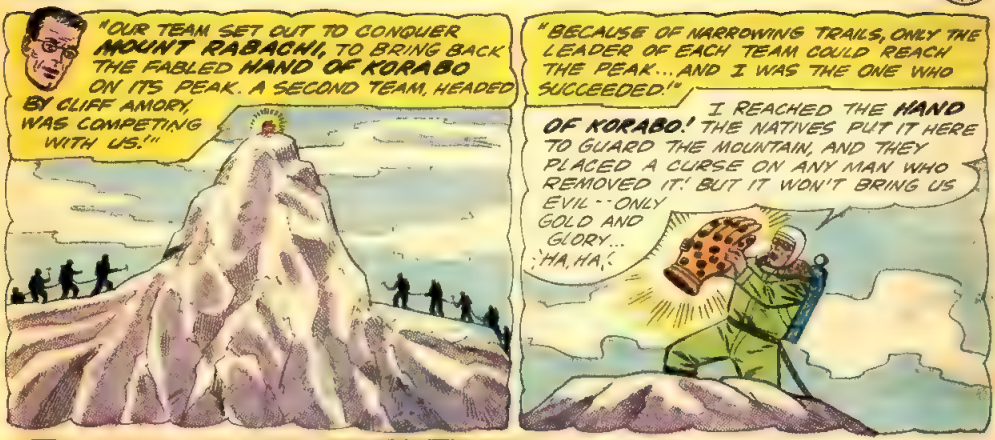
Dear Editor: I think BATMAN, ROBIN and SUPERMAN face their greatest challenge when they battle super-aliens from outer space. Any plans for another one of those adventures?

Tommy Bell, Enid, Okla.

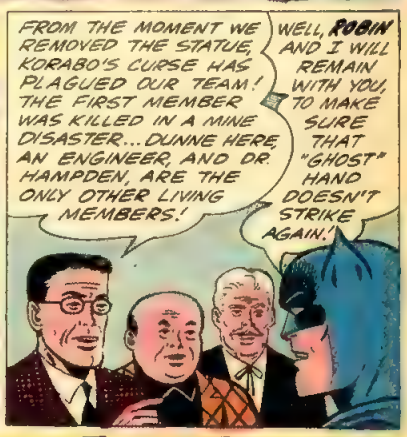
(Yes—in the MARCH issue of WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, No. 124. You'll find not only a tremendous challenge to the famed trio, but a special surprise as your favorite heroes join forces to solve "THE MYSTERY OF THE ALIEN SUPER-BOY!"—Ed.)

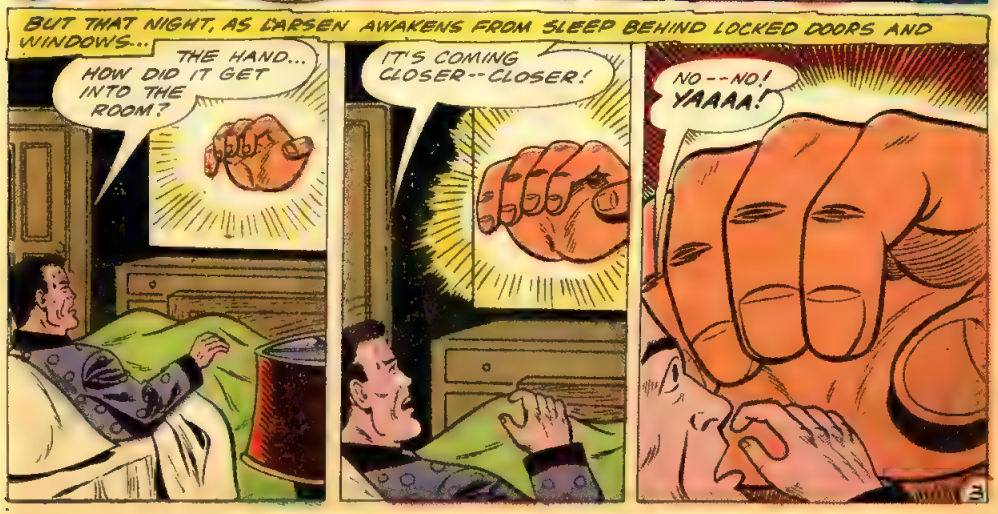
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
HIGH ON A MOUNTAIN PEAK, IT HAD STOOD FOR CENTURIES, THE GOLDEN HAND OF KORABO THAT MANY BELIEVED PROTECTED THEIR LAND! BUT, FOR THE NON-BELIEVER, FOR THE MAN WHO DARED DEFY ITS MAGIC POWERS--INDEED, EVEN FOR BATMAN.. THERE REMAINED ONLY THE FUTILE RACE TO ESCAPE..
the DEADLY CURSE of KORABO
THAT FLAMING HAND...IT'S SPIRITING AWAY ANOTHER VICTIM!
BOB KANE

AS THE MIGHTY BATMOBILE ROARS DOWN AN OPEN HIGHWAY, BATMAN AND ROBIN ONCE MORE HEED THE CALL TO ACTION...
WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE LARSEN IS SO FRANTIC TO SEE US, BATMAN?
BEATS ME, ROBIN... A MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING ADVENTURER LIKE KEITH LARSEN DOESN'T SCARE EASILY, YOU KNOW!
SUDDENLY, AS THEY APPROACH THEIR DESTINATION...
GREAT GHOSTS! A GIANT HAND FLOATING DOWN FROM THE SKY! IT'S REACHING FOR ONE OF THOSE MEN!
H-HELP ME... HELP...
THE HAND OF KORABO!.. IT'S GOT CHAMBERS! THE CURSE HAS TAKEN ITS SECOND VICTIM!
INSTANTLY, A BAT-ROPE SNAKES OUT, BUT..
THAT SMOKE--OBSCURING THE TARGET! I MISSED IT!
HISSSS
THE HAND DISAPPEARED--AND TOOK THAT MAN WITH IT! WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID ABOUT A CURSE, MR. LARSEN?
CHAMBERS WAS THE SECOND MEMBER OF OUR MOUNTAIN-CLIMBING TEAM TO MEET THIS FATE! BUT LET ME TELL YOU THE STORY FROM THE BEGINNING...

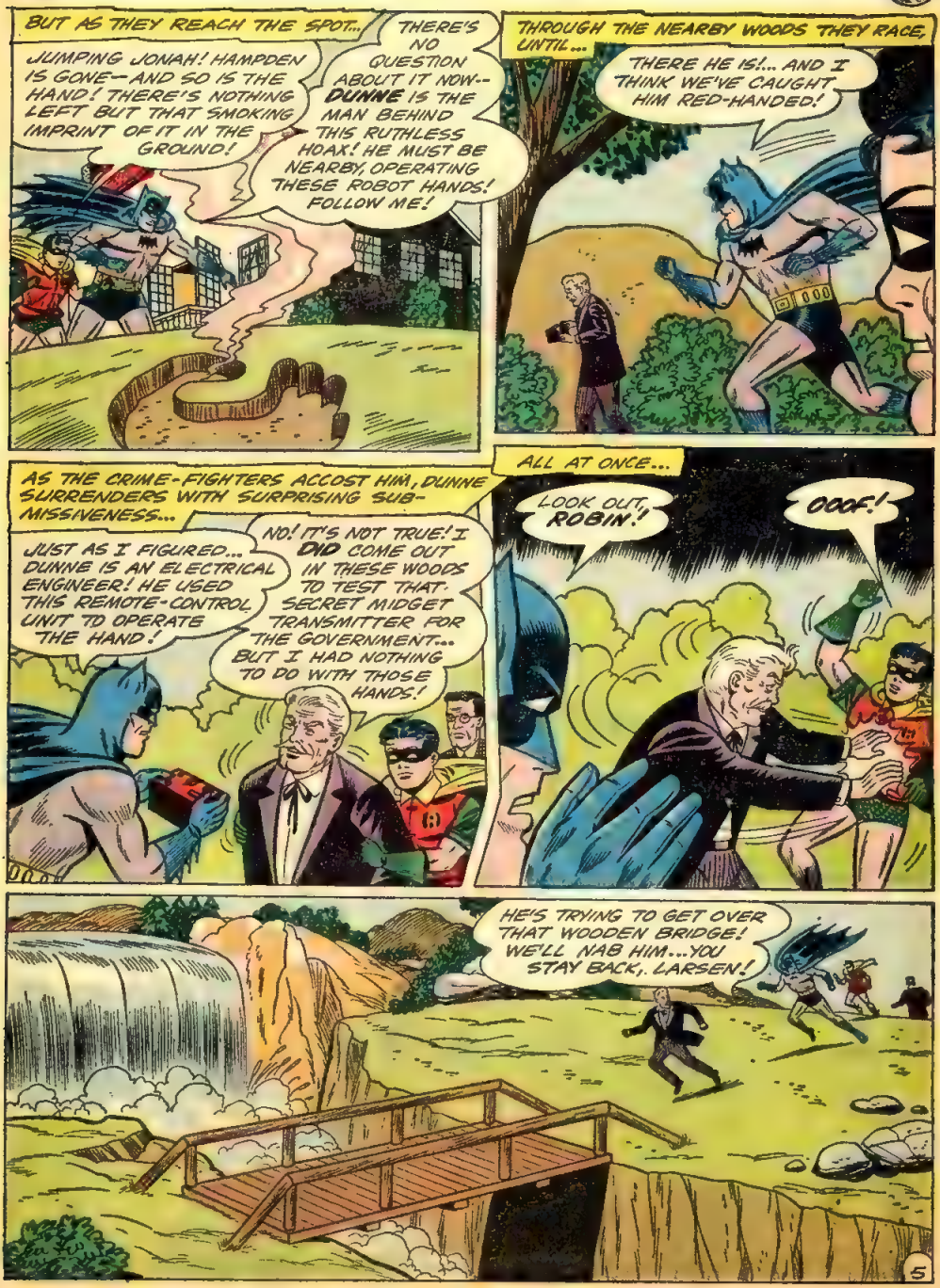

"OUR TEAM SET OUT TO CONQUER MOUNT RABACHI, TO BRING BACK THE FABLED HAND OF KORABO ON ITS PEAK. A SECOND TEAM, HEADED BY CLIFF AMORY, WAS COMPETING WITH US!"
"BECAUSE OF NARROWING TRAILS, ONLY THE LEADER OF EACH TEAM COULD REACH THE PEAK... AND I WAS THE ONE WHO SUCCEEDED!"
I REACHED THE HAND OF KORABO! THE NATIVES PUT IT HERE TO GUARD THE MOUNTAIN, AND THEY PLACED A CURSE ON ANY MAN WHO REMOVED IT! BUT IT WON'T BRING US EVIL--ONLY GOLD AND GLORY... HA, HA, HA!

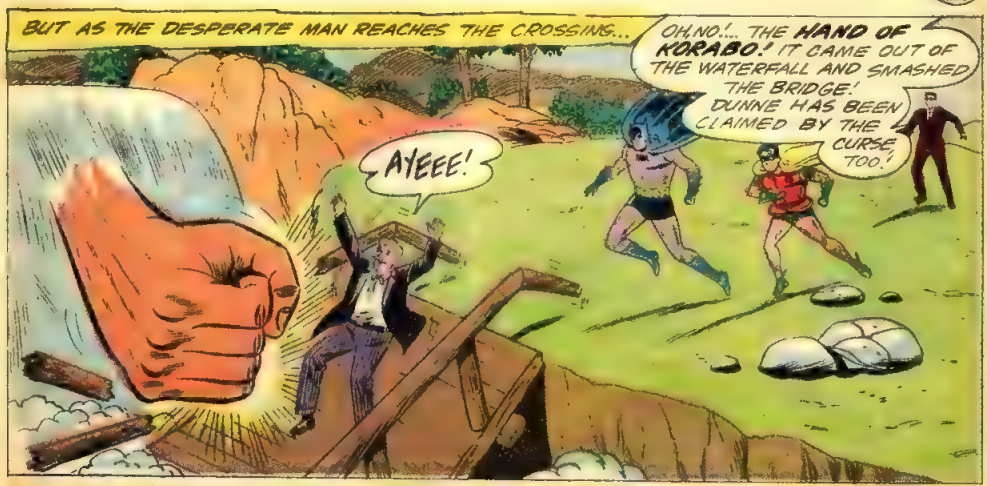
"YET, EVEN AS I REACHED THE PEAK, A CRUEL FATE HAD OVERTAKEN MY COMPETITOR..."
IT'S AMORY!... HE'S DEAD!
HE FELL OFF THAT CLIFF AND RIGHT INTO OUR CAMPSIGHT!

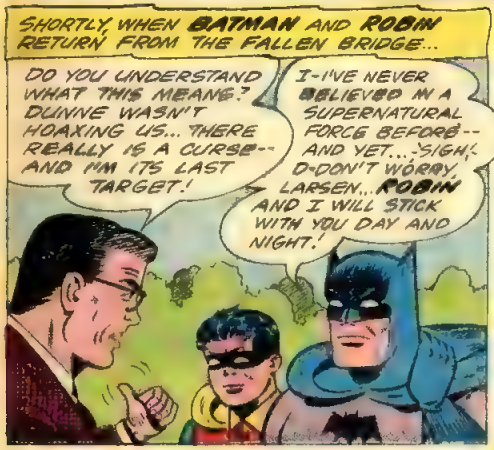

FROM THE MOMENT WE REMOVED THE STATUE, KORABO'S CURSE HAS PLAGUED OUR TEAM! THE FIRST MEMBER WAS KILLED IN A MINE DISASTER... DUNNE HERE, AN ENGINEER, AND DR. HAMPDEN, ARE THE ONLY OTHER LIVING MEMBERS!
WELL, ROBIN AND I WILL REMAIN WITH YOU, TO MAKE SURE THAT "GHOST" HAND DOESN'T STRIKE AGAIN!

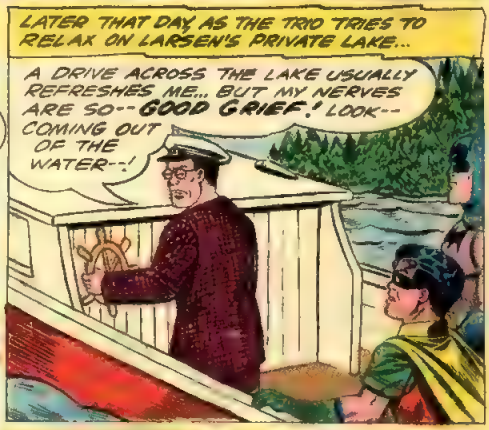

BUT THAT NIGHT, AS LARSEN AWAKENS FROM SLEEP BEHIND LOCKED DOORS AND WINDOWS...
THE HAND... HOW DID IT GET INTO THE ROOM?
IT'S COMING CLOSER--CLOSER!
NO--NO! YAAAA!

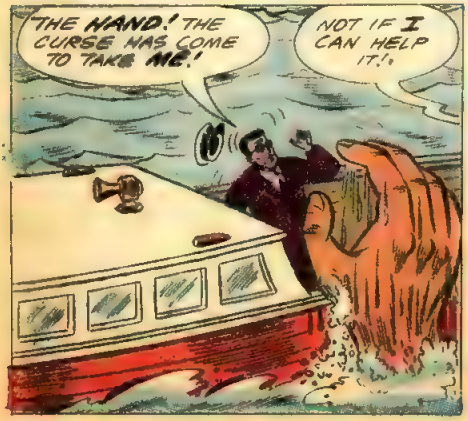
SUMMONED BY THE SCREAMS, BATMAN AND ROBIN BREAK DOWN THE DOOR ONLY TO LEARN...
YOU'RE TOO LATE... IT'S GONE! BUT THANK GOODNESS YOU ARRIVED WHEN YOU DID! THE HAND—FLOATING THROUGH THE AIR... IT TRIED TO GET ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WAS A SUPER-NATURAL HAND YOU SAW! COME ON, ROBIN, LET'S SEE IF WE CAN'T FIND A MATERIAL EXPLANATION!
LATER, AFTER SEARCHING THE GROUNDS...
WE FOUND FOOTPRINTS OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW! I THINK EITHER DUNNE OR HAMPDEN STOOD THERE AND FOCUSED A PROJECTED IMAGE OF THE HAND ONTO THAT MIRROR!
BUT WHY, BATMAN? WHY SHOULD THEY DO THIS TO ME?
MY GUESS IS THAT ONE OF THEM KILLED THE FIRST TWO MEMBERS OF YOUR TEAM, AND PLANS ON REMOVING YOU AND THE OTHER ONE! EITHER DUNNE OR HAMPDEN WANTS THAT MILLION-DOLLAR STATUE FOR HIMSELF--AND I'VE GOT A SUSPICION WHICH ONE IT IS!
INCREDIBLE! I'M LUCKY YOU TWO ARE HERE TO PROTECT ME!
AS THEY DASH THROUGH THE FRENCH DOORS OVERLOOKING THE ESTATE...
JUST OVER THE SLOPE--A FLAMING HAND! IT'S REACHING FOR HAMPDEN!
QUICKLY!... WE'VE GOT TO TRY AND SAVE HIM!
THE FOLLOWING MORNING, WHEN THE GROUP HAS AWAKENED FROM A RESTLESS NIGHT...
LAST NIGHT, YOU SAID YOU HAD A SUSPICION AS TO WHETHER IT WAS DUNNE OR HAMPDEN BEHIND THESE MURDERS! YOU MUST TELL ME WHO, BATMAN!
WELL, I STILL HAVE NO PROOF--BUT ONE OF THOSE MEN IS THE MORE LIKELY SUSPECT BECAUSE OF--GREAT SCOTT!... THAT SCREAM!
AGG-GG

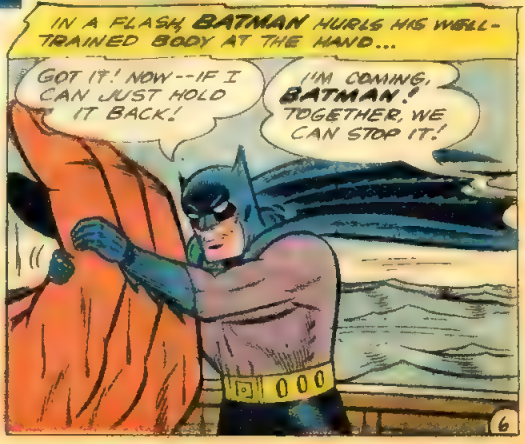

BUT AS THEY REACH THE SPOT...
JUMPING JONAH! HAMPDEN IS GONE—AND SO IS THE HAND! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT BUT THAT SMOKING IMPRINT OF IT IN THE GROUND!
THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT IT NOW-- DUNNE IS THE MAN BEHIND THIS RUTHLESS HOAX! HE MUST BE NEARBY, OPERATING THESE ROBOT HANDS! FOLLOW ME!
THROUGH THE NEARBY WOODS THEY RACE, UNTIL...
THERE HE IS!... AND I THINK WE'VE CAUGHT HIM RED-HANDED!
AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS ACCOST HIM, DUNNE SURRENDERS WITH SURPRISING SUB-MISSIVENESS...
JUST AS I FIGURED... DUNNE IS AN ELECTRICAL ENGINEER! HE USED THIS REMOTE-CONTROL UNIT TO OPERATE THE HAND!
NO! IT'S NOT TRUE! I DID COME OUT IN THESE WOODS TO TEST THAT SECRET MIDGET TRANSMITTER FOR THE GOVERNMENT... BUT I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THOSE HANDS!
ALL AT ONCE...
LOOK OUT, ROBIN!
OOOF!
HE'S TRYING TO GET OVER THAT WOODEN BRIDGE! WE'LL NAB HIM...YOU STAY BACK, LARSEN!

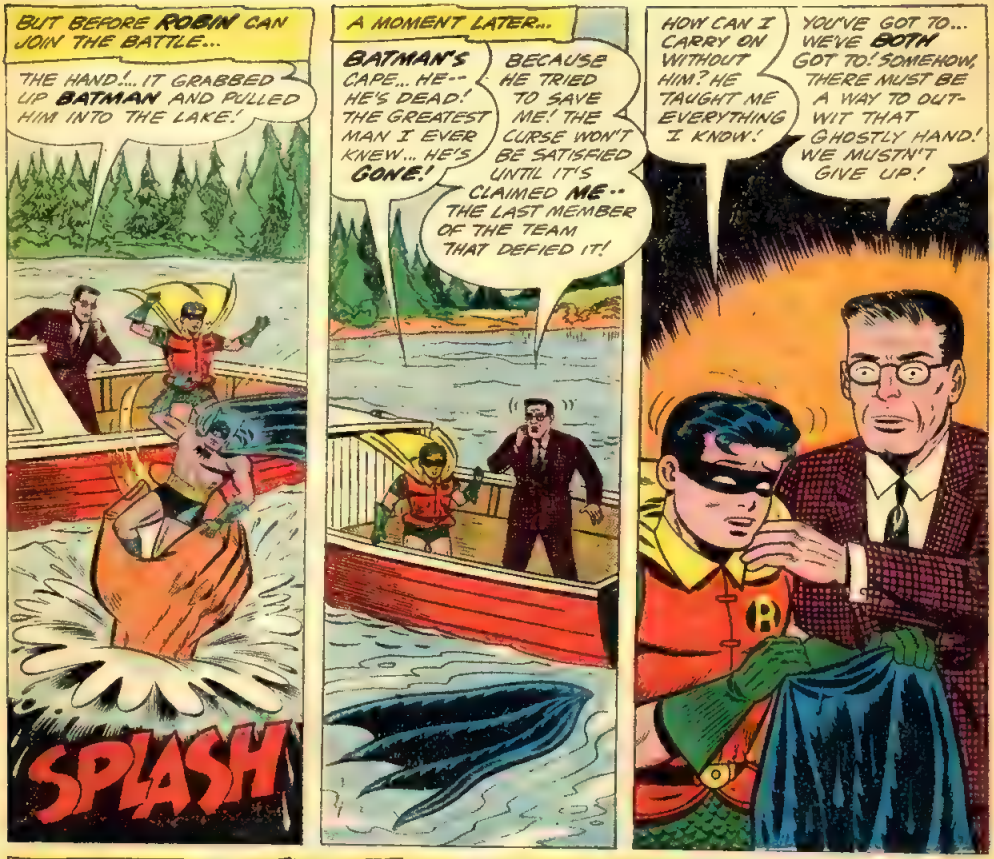

BUT AS THE DESPERATE MAN REACHES THE CROSSING...
AYEEE!
OH,NO!... THE HAND OF KORABO! IT CAME OUT OF THE WATERFALL AND SMASHED THE BRIDGE! DUNNE HAS BEEN CLAIMED BY THE CURSE, TOO!

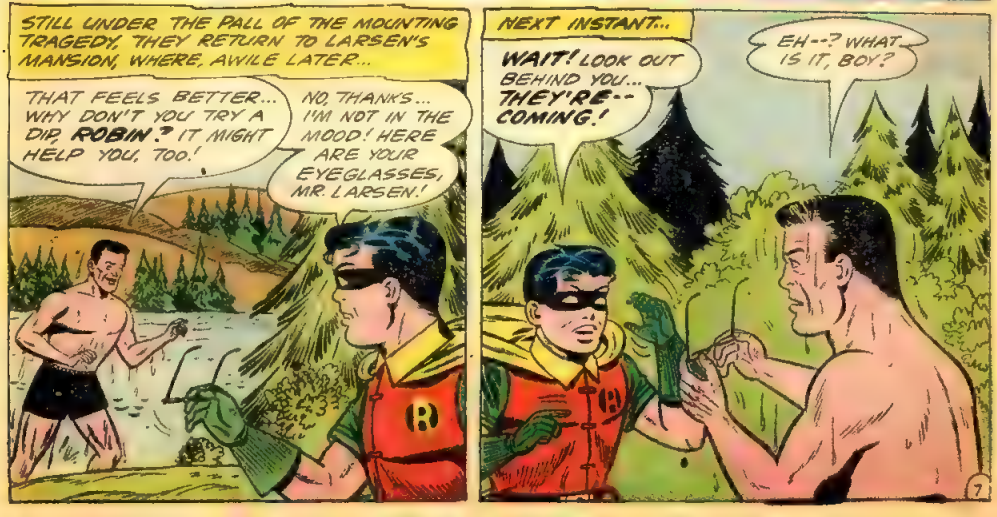

SHORTLY, WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN FROM THE FALLEN BRIDGE...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS MEANS? DUNNE WASN'T HOAXING US... THERE REALLY IS A CURSE-- AND I'M ITS LAST TARGET!
I-I'VE NEVER BELIEVED IN A SUPERNATURAL FORCE BEFORE-- AND YET...SIGH!- D-DON'T WORRY, LARSEN... ROBIN AND I WILL STICK WITH YOU DAY AND NIGHT!


LATER THAT DAY, AS THE TRIO TRIES TO RELAX ON LARSEN'S PRIVATE LAKE...
A DRIVE ACROSS THE LAKE USUALLY REFRESHES ME... BUT MY NERVES ARE SO-- GOOD GRIEF! LOOK-- COMING OUT OF THE WATER--!

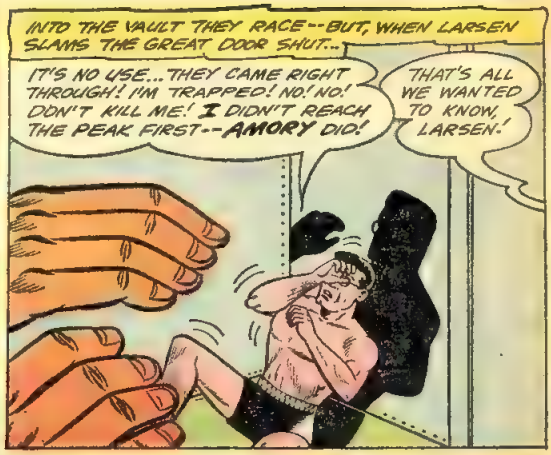

THE HAND! THE CURSE HAS COME TO TAKE ME!
NOT IF I CAN HELP IT!

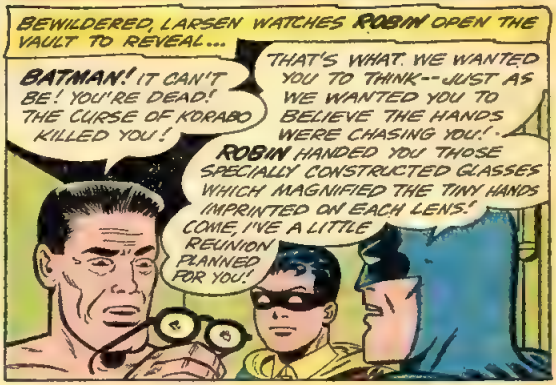

IN A FLASH, BATMAN HURLS HIS WELL-TRAINED BODY AT THE HAND...
GOT IT! NOW--IF I CAN JUST HOLD IT BACK!
I'M COMING, BATMAN! TOGETHER, WE CAN STOP IT!


BUT BEFORE ROBIN CAN JOIN THE BATTLE...
THE HAND!... IT GRABBED UP BATMAN AND PULLED HIM INTO THE LAKE!
SPLASH
A MOMENT LATER...
BATMAN'S CAPE... HE-- HE'S DEAD! THE GREATEST MAN I EVER KNEW... HE'S GONE!
BECAUSE HE TRIED TO SAVE ME! THE CURSE WON'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL IT'S CLAIMED ME.. THE LAST MEMBER OF THE TEAM THAT DEFIED IT!
HOW CAN I CARRY ON WITHOUT HIM? HE TAUGHT ME EVERYTHING I KNOW!
YOU'VE GOT TO... WE'VE BOTH GOT TO! SOMEHOW, THERE MUST BE A WAY TO OUT-WIT THAT GHOSTLY HAND! WE MUSTN'T GIVE UP!

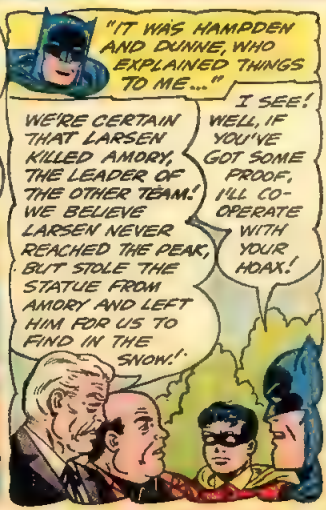

STILL UNDER THE PALL OF THE MOUNTING TRAGEDY, THEY RETURN TO LARSEN'S MANSION, WHERE, AWILE LATER...
THAT FEELS BETTER... WHY DON'T YOU TRY A DIP, ROBIN? IT MIGHT HELP YOU, TOO!
NO, THANKS... I'M NOT IN THE MOOD! HERE ARE YOUR EYEGLASSES, MR. LARSEN!
NEXT INSTANT...
WAIT! LOOK OUT BEHIND YOU... THEY'RE-- COMING!
EH--? WHAT IS IT, BOY?

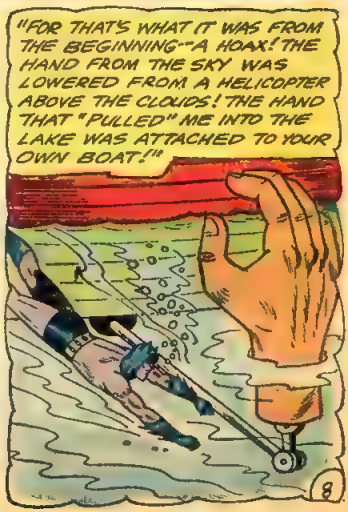
HANDS--GIANT HANDS... TWO OF THEM NOW--FOLLOWING ME WHEREVER I TURN! QUICKLY, ROBIN--INTO THE HOUSE! I'VE A STEEL VAULT THERE THAT EVEN KORABO CAN'T PENETRATE!

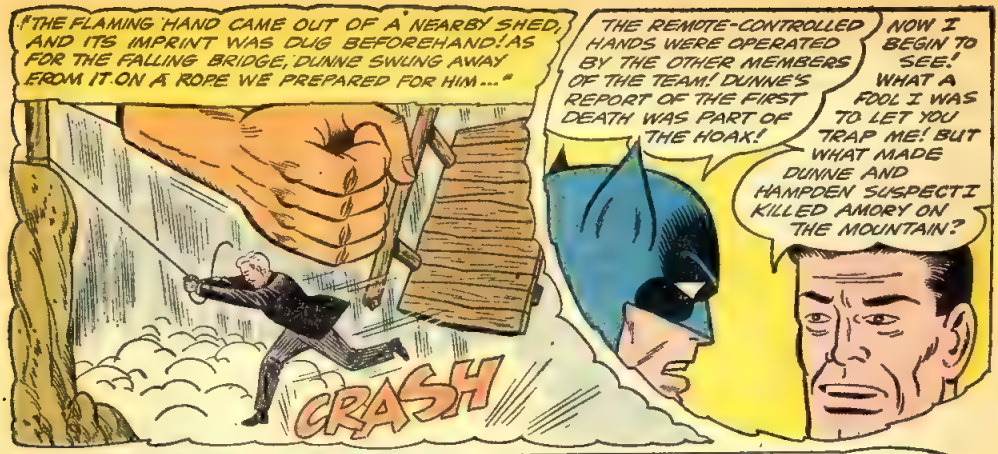

INTO THE VAULT THEY RACE--BUT, WHEN LARSEN SLAMS THE GREAT DOOR SHUT...
IT'S NO USE...THEY CAME RIGHT THROUGH! I'M TRAPPED! NO! NO! DON'T KILL ME! I DIDN'T REACH THE PEAK FIRST--AMORY DID!
THAT'S ALL WE WANTED TO KNOW, LARSEN!

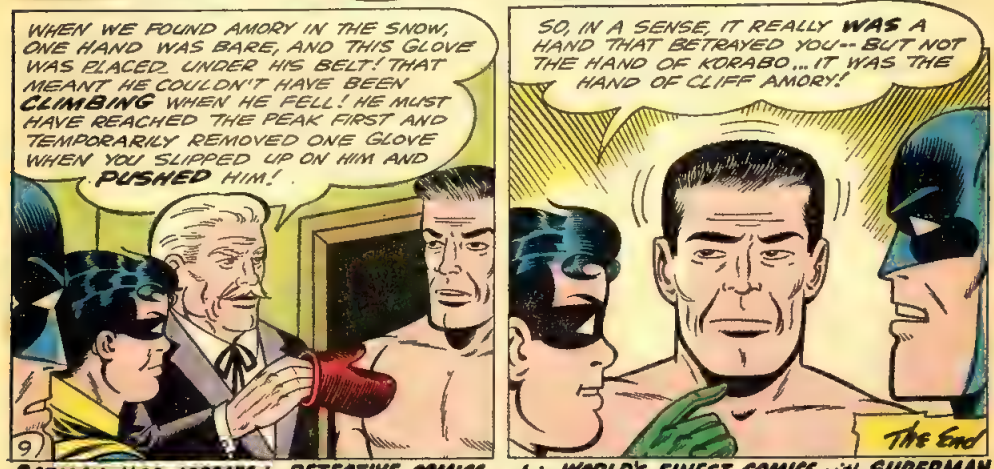

BEWILDERED, LARSEN WATCHES ROBIN OPEN THE VAULT TO REVEAL...
BATMAN! IT CAN'T BE! YOU'RE DEAD! THE CURSE OF KORABO KILLED YOU!
THAT'S WHAT WE WANTED YOU TO THINK--JUST AS WE WANTED YOU TO BELIEVE THE HANDS WERE CHASING YOU!
ROBIN HANDED YOU THOSE SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED GLASSES WHICH MAGNIFIED THE TINY HANDS IMPRINTED ON EACH LENS!
COME, I'VE A LITTLE REUNION PLANNED FOR YOU!

HAMPDEN AND DUNNE--THEY'RE ALIVE, TOO! BUT--HOW...?
I'LL EXPLAIN! THE FIRST NIGHT, WHEN I SUSPECTED A HOAX, I WENT OUT INTO THE GARDEN TO SEARCH FOR THE PERPETRATOR, AND I FOUND HIM--I MEAN, THEM!


"IT WAS HAMPDEN AND DUNNE, WHO EXPLAINED THINGS TO ME..."
I SEE! WELL, IF YOU'VE GOT SOME PROOF, I'LL CO-OPERATE WITH YOUR HOAX!
WE'RE CERTAIN THAT LARSEN KILLED AMORY, THE LEADER OF THE OTHER TEAM! WE BELIEVE LARSEN NEVER REACHED THE PEAK, BUT STOLE THE STATUE FROM AMORY AND LEFT HIM FOR US TO FIND IN THE SNOW!


"FOR THAT'S WHAT IT WAS FROM THE BEGINNING--A HOAX! THE HAND FROM THE SKY WAS LOWERED FROM A HELICOPTER ABOVE THE CLOUDS! THE HAND THAT "PULLED" ME INTO THE LAKE WAS ATTACHED TO YOUR OWN BOAT!"


"THE FLAMING HAND CAME OUT OF A NEARBY SHED, AND ITS IMPRINT WAS DUG BEFOREHAND! AS FOR THE FALLING BRIDGE, DUNNE SWUNG AWAY FROM IT ON A ROPE WE PREPARED FOR HIM..."
CRASH
THE REMOTE-CONTROLLED HANDS WERE OPERATED BY THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE TEAM! DUNNE'S REPORT OF THE FIRST DEATH WAS PART OF THE HOAX!
NOW I BEGIN TO SEE! WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO LET YOU TRAP ME! BUT WHAT MADE DUNNE AND HAMPDEN SUSPECT I KILLED AMORY ON THE MOUNTAIN?


WHEN WE FOUND AMORY IN THE SNOW, ONE HAND WAS BARE, AND THIS GLOVE WAS PLACED UNDER HIS BELT! THAT MEANT HE COULDN'T HAVE BEEN CLIMBING WHEN HE FELL! HE MUST HAVE REACHED THE PEAK FIRST AND TEMPORARILY REMOVED ONE GLOVE WHEN YOU SLIPPED UP ON HIM AND PUSHED HIM!
SO, IN A SENSE, IT REALLY WAS A HAND THAT BETRAYED YOU-- BUT NOT THE HAND OF KORABO... IT WAS THE HAND OF CLIFF AMORY!
9
The End

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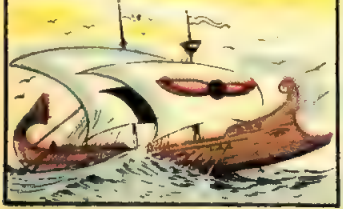
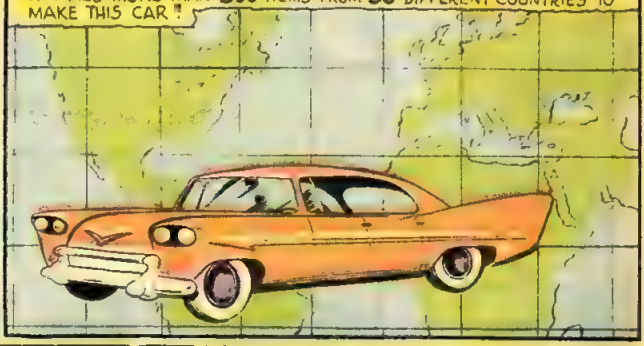
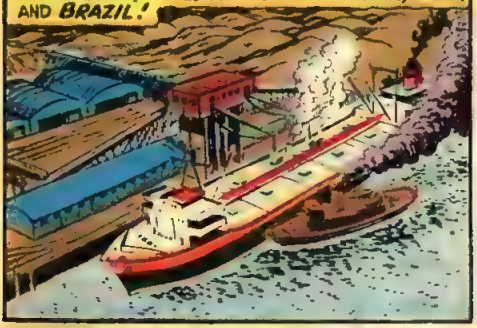


TAKE A MODERN AMERICAN AUTOMOBILE, FOR INSTANCE. DO YOU KNOW IT TAKES MORE THAN **300** ITEMS FROM **56** DIFFERENT COUNTRIES TO MAKE THIS CAR!



MANGANESE, 14 POUNDS OF WHICH IS USED IN EVERY TON OF STEEL, COMES FROM ***SOUTH AFRICA***, ***INDIA*** AND ***BRAZIL!***



RUBBER FOR THE TIRES COMES FROM ***MALAYA***, ***SUMATRA***, ***BRAZIL***, THE ***EAST INDIES***, ***CEYLON*** AND ***AFRICA!***

CHROMIUM, USED FOR PLATING THE TRIM AND FOR SPECIAL STEELS, COMES FROM ***SOUTHERN RHODESIA***, ***SOUTH AFRICA*** AND ***TURKEY!***

WOOL FOR THE CAR'S UPHOLSTERY COMES FROM ***AUSTRALIA***, ***NEW ZEALAND*** AND ***ARGENTINA!***

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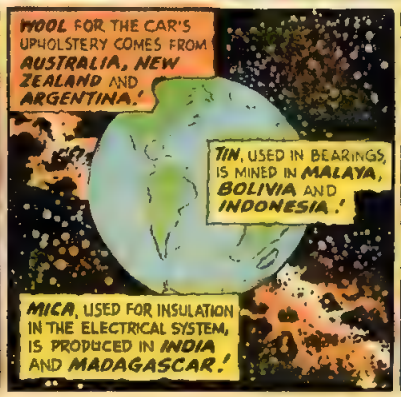
MICA, USED FOR INSULATION IN THE ELECTRICAL SYSTEM, IS PRODUCED IN ***INDIA*** AND ***MADAGASCAR!***



YES. IT'S TRUE, NO ONE COUNTRY CAN BE SUFFICIENT TO ITSELF, ANY MORE THAN ONE PERSON CAN BE SUFFICIENT TO HIMSELF. IT TAKES MANY COUNTRIES, WORKING TOGETHER, TO PROVIDE PROGRESS FOR ALL!

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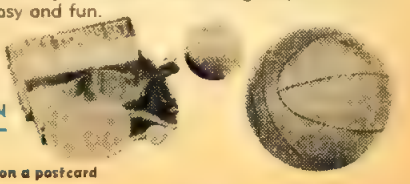

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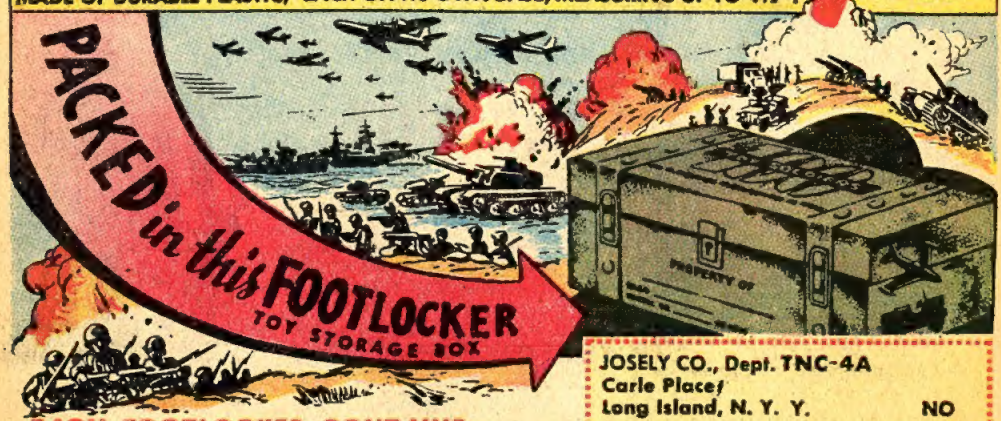

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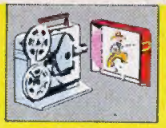
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